

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03916 032033Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOTE-00 SSO-00 L-02 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 COA-01 CG-00 DLOS-03

SIL-01 LAB-04 COME-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 /042 W

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O 032010Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5109

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PASS DOT FOR UNDER SECRETARY BARNUM AND DR. TRILLING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, CA

SUBJ: GREAT LAKES PILOTAGE QUESTION

REF: OTTAWA 3720

1. O'NEIL, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, MARINE SERVICES, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (MOT), ADVISED TCO NOON DECEMBER 3 THAT MOT HAS ARRANGED SEND TEAM TO WASHINGTON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 FOR RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, THERE IS POSSIBILITY LAST MINUTE POSTPONEMENT BEING REQUESTED AS ILLNESS OF MOT DEPUTY MINISTER STONER IS MAKING PARTICIPATION OF SENIOR ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER SCOTT IN OUT OF TOWN MEETING UNCERTAIN. QUESTION MAY NOT BE RESOLVED IN OTTAWA BEFORE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5. HOWEVER, HIGH VALUE STILL ATTACHED TO REACHING SOME KIND OF AGREEMENT BY DECEMBER 15.

2. CANDEL WILL ADVISE U.S. THAT IT CONTINUES TO HAVE REAL PROBLEM WITH OUR PROPOSAL MADE AT END OF OCTOBER 29 MEETING FOR 58-42 SPLIT WITH POSSIBLE DROP TO 55-45 IF US PILOTS ADMITTED TO WELLAND CANAL. ITS PROBLEM RELATES TO DIFFICULTIES WITH CANADIAN
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03916 032033Z

PILOTS WHO ARE ADAMANT AGAINST ADMISSION OF US PILOTS

TO WELLAND AND WHO WILL NOT ACCEPT SUCH A HIGH US
RATIO AS 58-42. O'NEIL THINKS THAT THEY CAN BE
INDUCED TO ACCEPT A SPLIT IN THE 56-44 OR 55-45 RANGE
WITHOUT ADMISSION OF US PILOTS.

3. FURTHERMORE, GOC ITSELF LIKELY TO HAVE DIFFICULTIES
WITH IDEA OF RE-ADMITTING US PILOTS TO WELLAND IN VIEW
OF ABRUPT MANNER IN WHICH THEY WITHDREW SEVERAL YEARS
AGO TO CONCENTRATE ON WHAT THEY THOUGHT WOULD BE
MORE LUCRATIVE AND LESS DEMANDING LAKE ERIE PORT
MOVEMENTS. O'NEIL INDICATED GOC HAS STRONG DISTASTE
FOR OPERATING PRACTICES OF US PILOTS WHEN THEY WERE
IN THE WELLAND IN THAT THEY WOULD NOT WORK THE MORE
DIFFICULT SECTIONS OF THE CANAL AND INSISTED ON MID-
POINT TURN AROUND. IN UNLIKELY EVENT GOC COULD AGREE
TO RE-ADMISSION NOW IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ON BASIS OF
TIGHT RULES WHICH WOULD ASSURE AVAILABILITY OF US
PILOTS AT THE AGREED LEVEL AND THEIR ENFORCED
WILLINGNESS TO WORK THE WHOLE CANAL ON THE SAME BASIS
AS THE CANADIAN PILOTS.

4. O'NEIL PROFESSED SYMPATHY FOR USG OBJECTIVE RE
WELLAND (AS STATED IN PARA 3 UNDER SECRETARY
BARNUM'S TELEGRAMS OF NOVEMBER 19 TO AMBASSADOR
PORTER) BUT INDICATED HIS VIEW THAT THE PRESENCE OF
US PILOTS WOULD NOT ENABLE MOVEMENT OF COMMERCE
BOUND TO OR FROM US PORTS IN THE EVENT OF JOB
ACTION BY THE CANADIAN PILOTS. HE POINTED TO
INCREASING SOLIDARITY BEING DEVELOPED BETWEEN
CANADIAN PILOTS AND EMPLOYEES OF CANADIAN ST. LAWRENCE
SEAWAY AUTHORITY AND STATED THAT ANY ATTEMPT OF US
PILOTS TO WORK DURING A CANADIAN PILOTS STOPPAGE WOULD
PRODUCE FRATERNAL ACTION ON PART OF SEAWAY WORKERS
UNION WHICH WOULD CLOSE DOWN NOT ONLY WELLAND BUT ALSO
ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY.

5. COMMENT: THIS LAST POINT HAS BEEN MADE TO US BEFORE BY
O'NEIL AND OTHERS IN MOT; IN SOME VERSIONS IT EXTENDS BEYOND
SEAWAY TO LAURENTIAN PILOTS ASSOCIATION AS WELL, AND THE SPECTRE
OF TRAFFIC FROM MONTREAL EAST BEING TIED UP AT SAME TIME AS
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PAGE 03 OTTAWA 03916 032033Z

WELLAND IS MENTIONED. JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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